

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123506

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, NO, UR, PBOR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON SVALBARD FISHERIES PROTECTION
ZONE (FPZ)

REF: OSLO 2226

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, NORWEGIAN DCM BARTH CALLED ON
NORTHERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MAY 15 TO COMMUNICATE
SUBSTANCE OF ISHKOV ORAL DEMARCHE TO EVENSEN CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF NORWEGIAN MEASURES IN SVALBARD FPZ
(REFTEL).

2. IN LINE WITH TREHOLT'S INFORMATION, BARTH DESCRIBED
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SOVIET POSITION AS (A) TAKING A NEGATIVE VIEW OF NORWEGIAN
UNILATERAL REGULATIONS) CHARACTERIZING MEASURES AS
DISCRIMINATORY BECAUSE THEY AFFECT SOVIET FISHERMEN AND
(C) FAILING TO RECOGNIZE MUTUAL INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBI-
LITIES TO PROTECT LIVING RESOURCES IN NORWEGIAN AND BARENTS
SEA WHICH REPRESENT UNITARY ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM. CITING
VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF SOVIET-NORWEGIAN COMMUNIQUE FROM MARCH

CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW, SOVIETS POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION AMONG SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS OR AGREEMENT ON OBJECTIVE SCIENTIFIC DATA FOR THE REGION. SOVIETS THEREFORE COULD NOT SEE WHY UNILATERAL ACTION WAS NECESSARY OR WHY GON COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL NEXT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL

MIXED COMMISSION MEETING IN JUNE.

3. BARTH THEN CONVEYED GON CABINET EVALUATION WHICH CONCLUDED DEMARCHE WAS RELATIVELY MILD, DELIVERED IN ORAL RATHER THAN WRITTEN FORM AND CONTAINED NO NEW SUBSTANTIVE POINTS. CABINET ALSO NOTED ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO LEGAL OR POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS OVER SVALBARD AND SVALBARD SHELF. BARTH ADDED GON HOPED SOVIET VESSELS WOULD ADHERE TO REGULATIONS AND NOT ENTER CLOSED AREAS BUT HE ADMITTED THERE WAS SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES.

4. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT EVENSEN WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH DEPUTY SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER IN GENEVA MAY 12 TO GIVE OFFICIAL GON REACTION TO ISHKOV DEMARCHE. EVENSEN'S INSTRUCTIONS, ACCORDING TO BARTH, STATED THAT GON MEASURES WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE ON MAY 15, NEW REGULATIONS WERE NOT DISCRIMINATORY, MEASURES WOULD BENEFIT COMMON FISHERY STOCKS AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THESE ISSUES COULD TAKE PLACE AT MEETING OF MIXED COMMISSION IN JUNE. CONFIDENTIAL

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NORWEGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD NO WORD ON WHETHER EVENSEN'S INSTRUCTION WAS, IN FACT, CARRIED OUT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NORWEGIAN ENFORCEMENT POLICY, BARTH PROFESSED NO INFORMATION EXCEPT TO NOTE VINDENES' EARLIER REMARKS IN WASHINGTON THAT ENFORCEMENT POLICIES WOULD PROBABLY BE LENIENT IN EARLY STAGES. VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR. SCOTT.

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